

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 IO-13 ACDA-12

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00

INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 HA-05 /090 W

-----006153 291753Z /43

O P 291725Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1413

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LOME PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 15733

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CG, GW, FR, BE, US, UK

SUBJECT: PARIS MEETING ON AFRICAN FORCES IN SHABA

REFS: A) BONN 15454; B) STATE 218255; C) STATE 211443;

D) STATE 203722

1. THE FOREIGN OFFICE WORKING-LEVEL HAS EXPRESSED SERIOUS MISGIVINGS ABOUT THE PROPOSED PARIS MEETING ON SHABA AND HAS RECOMMENDED TO GENSCHER THAT THE FRG CALL FOR CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE PROSPECTIVE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS REGARDING THE NECESSITY FOR A MEETING. GENSCHER IS EXPECTED TO ACT ON THE RECOMMENDATION ON AUGUST 30.

2. WE MET WITH VESTRING ON AUGUST 29 TO DISCUSS THE SEPTEMBER 18-19 PARIS MEETING ON AFRICAN FORCES IN
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SHABA. VESTRING SAID THAT THIRD WORLD POLITICAL DIRECTOR MEYER-LANDRUT (ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL) HAD SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH FRG PARTICIPATION IN MEETING. ACCORDING TO VESTRING, MEYER-LANDRUT SAW NO NECESSITY FOR A MEETING AT THIS TIME. MORE IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, HE WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT A DISCUSSION CALLED PRIMARILY TO DEAL WITH AFRICAN FORCES IN SHABA WOULD

LEAD TO A RECURRENCE OF THE AFRICAN CRITICISM OF WESTERN INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS THAT FOLLOWED THE INITIAL SHABA UNDERTAKING. MEYER-LANDRUT, AND VESTRING TO A LESSER EXTENT, BELIEVED ANY MEETING ON SHABA SHOULD DEAL PRIMARILY WITH ECONOMIC QUESTIONS (AS HAD THE PARIS MEETING); QUESTIONS INVOLVING AFRICAN FORCES IN SHABA SHOULD BE DEALT WITH ON THE MARGINS OF THE MEETING. VESTRING THEN NOTED THAT ECONOMIC QUESTIONS WOULD, IN FACT, BE DISCUSSED IN BRUSSELS IN OCTOBER AND WONDERED ALOUD WHETHER ANY MEETING WAS NECESSARY AT THIS JUNCTURE.

3. MEYER-LANDRUT HAD INSTRUCTED THAT A RECOMMENDATION BE MADE TO GENSCHER THAT A DECISION ON FRG PARTICIPATION BE DEFERRED UNTIL BONN HAD CONSULTED BILATERALLY WITH THE US, BELGIUM, FRANCE AND THE UK. GENSCHER IS EXPECTED TO MAKE A DECISION ON THE MATTER TOMORROW.

4. DRAWING ON REFTELS C AND D, WE REITERATED DEPARTMENT'S RATIONALE FOR SUPPORTING IDEA OF PARIS MEETING. WE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT DEPARTMENT ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO KEEPING THE PARIS MEETING FROM BECOMING PUBLIC. SHOULD THIS OCCUR, WE WOULD TAKE THE LINE THAT THE MEETING WAS A NORMAL FOLLOW-ON TO THE JUNE 5 MEETING.

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5. COMMENT. THE GERMANS SEEM CONVINCED THAT A PARIS MEETING CALLED ESSENTIALLY TO DISCUSS AFRICAN FORCES IN SHABA WILL LEAK AND RESULT IN HARSH CRITICISM OF ALLEGED WESTERN INTERFERENCE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. FURTHERMORE, WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY ENTERTAIN SERIOUS DOUBTS AS TO THE NECESSITY OF THEIR OWN PARTICIPATION IN SUCH A MEETING. THEY SEEMINGLY FEEL THEY HAVE LITTLE TO CONTRIBUTE. THEY DID NOT FURNISH ASSISTANCE TO THE AFRICAN FORCES IN SHABA AND CLEARLY INTEND TO ADHERE TO THIS POLICY. THE GERMANS WOULD LIKE TO SAY "NO, THANK YOU" TO THE FRENCH BUT ARE CONCERNED ABOUT BEING ISOLATED. THUS, THEY PREFER THE OPTION OF CONSULTATIONS ON THE NECESSITY OF A CONFERENCE. IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT HOW GENSCHER WILL REACT TO HIS WORKING LEVEL'S RECOMMENDATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN15733
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780352-0966
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780810/aaaaaidu.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 01b98457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BONN 15454, 78 STATE 218255, 78 STATE 211443
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1539426
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PARIS MEETING ON AFRICAN FORCES IN SHABA
TAGS: MOPS, CG, GE, FR, BE, US, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/01b98457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014